KU TRANSPORTATION CENTER ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE

The KU Transportation Center provides transportation-related technical assistance and training to local communities in the State of Kansas. Its goals are to improve roadway safety, worker safety and efficient use of resources in transportation.

The Kansas Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), located at the KU Transportation Center (KUTC), provides a number of engineering assistance services — free — to local agencies that need help with traffic-related issues in their jurisdiction. These include:

Traffic Studies
KUTC lends equipment and provides training on their use, as needed, to conduct a number of types of traffic studies. See sidebar at right. Upon completion of the study and return of the equipment, KUTC provides a summary of the results to the local agency. In certain cases where special equipment such as a radar unit is needed, KUTC staff may be able to assist with the data collection.

A traffic study provides fundamental data for a variety of uses. It can be helpful if a community is:

- Concerned about road safety and/or speed;
- Considering dust control;
- Considering pavement maintenance decisions;
- Needing to know traffic volumes for funding opportunities;
- Needing to know what types of vehicles are on their roads, to address road stress from heavy vehicles;
- Considering adding a traffic control device.

KUTC provides free training in the use of traffic counters. They are relatively lightweight and easy to ship.

Road Safety Assessment
KUTC will provide assistance in assembling an independent, multi-disciplinary Roadway Safety Assessment (RSA) team and will assume the lead role in conducting a road safety assessment at locations with a history of severe crashes or potential for severe crashes as identified by the local community. An RSA focuses primarily on roadway safety for all road-users including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists of all types of vehicles, including trucks.

An RSA results in a report with suggestions on how to improve the safety in the areas examined, from low cost solutions to high cost. The

RSA team members measuring distance from a driveway.

Attaching a traffic counter on a utility pole.

Types of traffic studies offered:

- Turning movement counts (vehicular, pedestrian and/or bicycle);
- 24-hour vehicular counts;
- Vehicle classification study;
- Stop sign delay study;
- Intersection stop delay study;
- Manual gap study; and
- Spot speed study.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Transportation Center

KU is an EO/AA institution.

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report can also provide information on sources of funding for safety improvements.

Cursory Crash Analysis
If your community has a location that has a high crash rate, say five or more crashes a year in a rural area, KUTC can perform a cursory crash analysis of that location, using the crash data provided by local agency. The results of the analysis will include a summary of crash type and severity coupled with suggested low-cost ways to improve safety.

Safety Analysis
For highly sensitive locations with traffic safety concerns (e.g. school zones, retirement communities, bike routes, pedestrian crosswalks, etc.) KUTC staff can suggest solutions for improving safety like adding a traffic device (stop sign, yield sign), traffic calming, and/or improving sight distance.

Workshops and Webinars
KUTC trainers conduct numerous free or low-cost workshops on a regular basis on traffic safety, traffic operation, roadway drainage, roadway maintenance, risk and liability, and more. See our training calendar at www.ksltap.org and click on "LTAP Calendar." To access online training, click on "Training Webinars."

Assistance with Compliance Questions
We can provide advice on compliance with national and state requirements for traffic control and also for accessibility, such as those found in the:

- ***Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*** (MUTCD)
- ***American with Disabilities Act Accessibilities Guidelines*** (ADAAG)
- ***Public Right Of Way Accessibilities Guidelines*** (PROWAG)

These regulations relate to variety of traffic control devices (e.g. signs, markings and signals) and facilities (e.g. roadways, roadsides, sidewalks, trails, and bike routes).

In Sum
The KU Transportation Center provides advice and initial assessment to address traffic related safety issues in local communities. Services are no cost or low cost. With the information provided, communities are better able to make decisions about safety improvements to be made, and whether they can afford to make improvements with local funding or apply for outside funding.

KUTC does not provide design or construction documents. If a suggested improvement requires engineering and community does not have a professional engineer on staff, KUTC may be able to assist in finding qualified engineering consultants to help with implementation.

For more information, contact KU Transportation Center Engineering Assistance at (785) 864-2593.

Roadway Safety Assessments (RSAs) can assist with improving safety at curves.

RSA team members examining a culvert.

Utilities in the right-of-way provide challenges for accessibility for persons with certain kinds of disabilities.